

VZCZCXRO4145
PP RUEHIK
DE RUEHAH #0162 0331316
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 021316Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4182
INFO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6211
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3889
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3748
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4455
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1461
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4364
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000162

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN; EEB;
ENERGY FOR EKIMOFF/BURPOE/COHEN
COMMERCE FOR EHOUSE/DSTARKS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EPET](#) [PGOV](#) [EINV](#) [CH](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMEN GAS HITS BEIJING

REF: ASHGABAT 35

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (U) On January 30, the Government-owned newspaper "Neutral Turkmenistan" published an article entitled "Turkmen Gas Has Reached Beijing." The article cites various Chinese media outlets as stating that the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) began pumping Turkmen gas from the Horgos station at the Kazakh-Chinese border to the Jingbian station via the newly-built western segment of the Second West-East gas pipeline and that the gas had successfully reached Beijing through the Shaan - Jing gas pipeline. Both the Second West-East and the Shaan -Jing pipelines are located inside China and are part of the Chinese gas transportation system, designed to transport Turkmen gas from the Central Asia - China gas pipeline to central and eastern parts of China (reftel).

13. (SBU) The Turkmen press article emphasized that Turkmen gas exports will help CNPC tackle a sharp increase in gas demand for Beijing and other parts of the country, brought on by an extremely cold winter. It also indicated that the current Turkmen gas inflow rate into China is 6.6 million cubic meters per day. It should be noted that the article does not cite any sources from the Turkmen oil and gas industry.

14. (SBU) According to a Turkmen Oil and Gas Ministry official, the Ministry does not generally follow developments concerning Turkmen gas to China, as it is "not concerned about the fate of Turkmen gas after it crosses the Turkmen border." She also commented on volumes of gas to China, pointing out that volumes should reach about 10 million cubic meters per day by the end of 2010, bringing the total volume of gas exports for 2010 to 3-3.5 billion cubic meters (bcm). She added that, despite an overall global drop in demand for gas, CNPC is ramping up its gas transportation infrastructure inside of China to accommodate Turkmen gas imported through the Central Asia - China gas pipeline.

15. (SBU) COMMENT: The Turkmen press confirmed that Turkmen gas has finally reached China, a source of great pride for the Turkmen.

Turkmenistan hopes to increase gas exports to China to up to 40 bcm per year by 2014. If gas demand in China continues to incline steadily, as predicted, the Chinese are likely to need every molecule of gas Turkmenistan has to offer. END COMMENT.

CURRAN